

HELLCAT

MARVEL 3

CANTWELL
LINS
DÍAZ



KNOK KNOK KNOK



YOU CAN'T
JUST SHOW BACK UP
TO **THIS HOUSE**
AFTER **YOU LEFT** AND
EXPECT TO BE WELCOMED
WITH **OPEN**
ARMS.

I WANT
TO **TALK TO**
HER. I HAVE **EVERY**
RIGHT TO SEE HER,
AND YOU KNOW
I DO...



WHY
DON'T YOU DO
US BOTH A FAVOR
AND **STAY**
GONE--?

I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY TO HER,
AND I'M NOT LEAVING
UNTIL I DO.



PATSY?
IS THAT YOU?
OH MY GOSH,
YOU GOT
BIG...

IT'S ME,
KIDDO.



IT'S
DAD.

Patsy Walker is a former teen celebrity turned super hero with supernatural and psychic powers. During her storied life, she's been an Avenger and private investigator, was married to the Son of Satan, died, went to hell and was resurrected. Having relocated to the West Coast, Patsy is determined to escape the ghosts of her past and claw out a new future as...

HELLCAT

"THE KNOW-IT-ALL"

Patsy's new boyfriend, Spalding Grantham, was brutally murdered. Patsy's memories leading up to the murder are clouded, save for partially recalling a violent fight with an unknown person. As the prime suspect, Patsy set out to clear her name and uncover the killer.

Patsy met with her demonic ex-husband, Daimon, who is currently trapped in the form of a plush bunny. Daimon hinted that there was more to Spalding than Patsy realized. When Patsy then confronted her friend Hedy, also Spalding's ex, Hedy summoned the police, who shot Patsy multiple times.

Rick Sheridan, A.K.A. Sleepwalker, is also a suspect due to his feelings for Patsy. He started his own investigation into Spalding's dark dealings--leading him right to the demon Blackheart!

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Now.

MOM?
DAD?

ARE YOU
THERE?

IT'S ME.
PATSY.

I'VE BEEN
SHOT.

AND I
THINK....

...I MIGHT
BE DEAD?

I TOLD YOU
BEFORE...YOU'RE
STRONGER
HERE.

AH. I'M
IN HELL.
GREAT.

FEELS
LIKE I NEVER
LEFT.

THAT'S THE
THING. YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO **STAY**.

MAYBE I
SHOULD. I SEEM
TO END UP **RIGHT**
BACK HERE TIME
AND AGAIN
ANYWAY.

YOU'RE
NO GOOD TO
ANYONE HERE. LEAST
OF ALL **SPALDING**
GRANTHAM.

SPALDING'S
DEAD.

BY **WHOSE**
HAND? HAVE YOU
FIGURED THAT
OUT YET?

YOU
JUST HAVE
TO **CHOOSE**
TO LEAVE. YOU
DID IT **ONCE**
BEFORE.*

*PATSY RETURNED FROM
HELL THE FIRST TIME IN
THUNDERBOLTS ANNUAL
2000. --MARTIN

HARNESS
THE **POWER OF**
BELOW. USE WHAT'S
ALREADY IN YOU. THE
DEVIL'S ALWAYS
BEEN ON YOUR
SHOULDER.

ISN'T
THAT WHAT
YOUR FATHER
SAID?



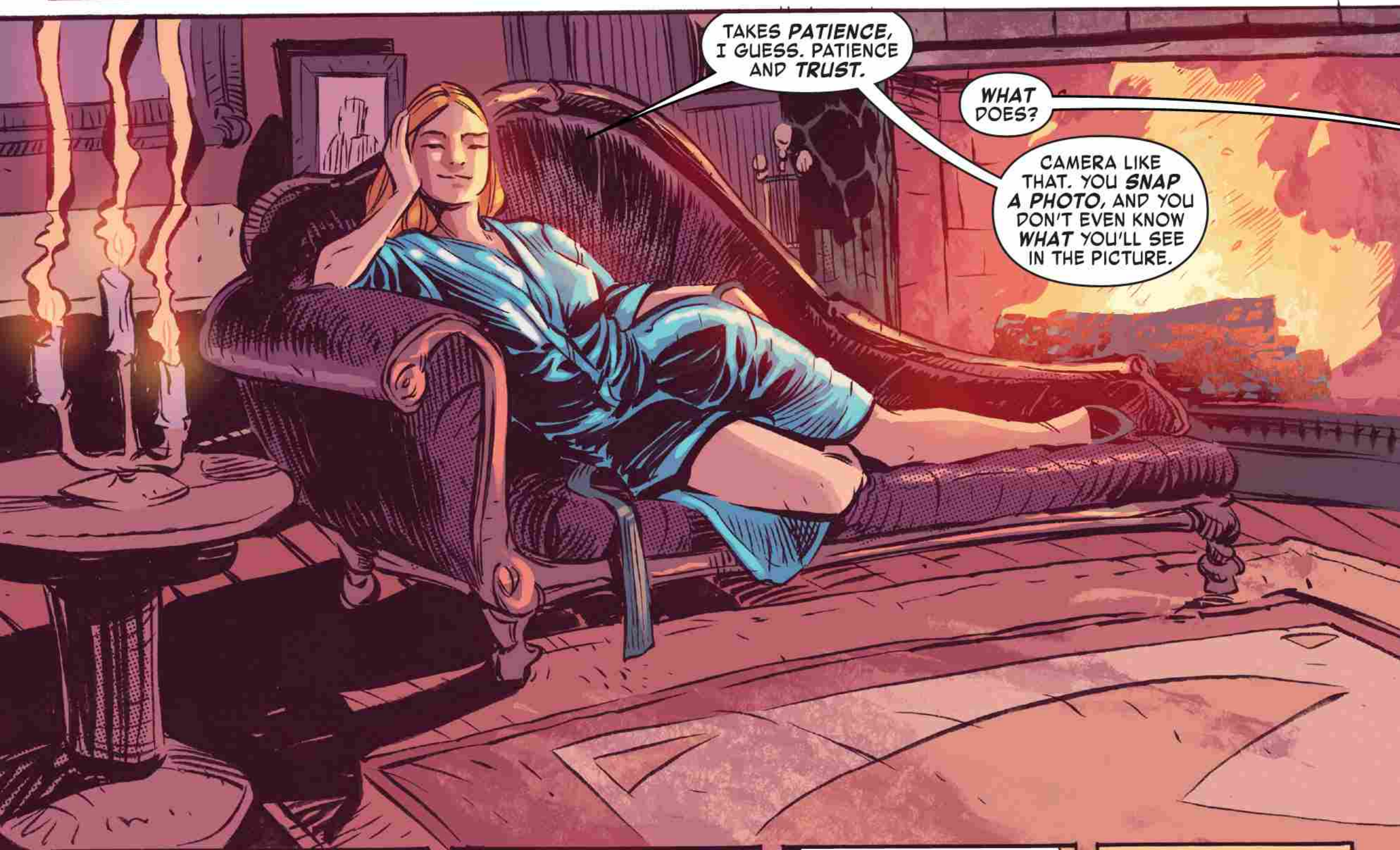


Recently.

WHAT DID YOU
SEE WHEN YOU
LOOKED AT ME?

SPALDING,
GEEZ, HOW
LONG'S THIS
GONNA
TAKE?

HOLD YOUR
HORSES.



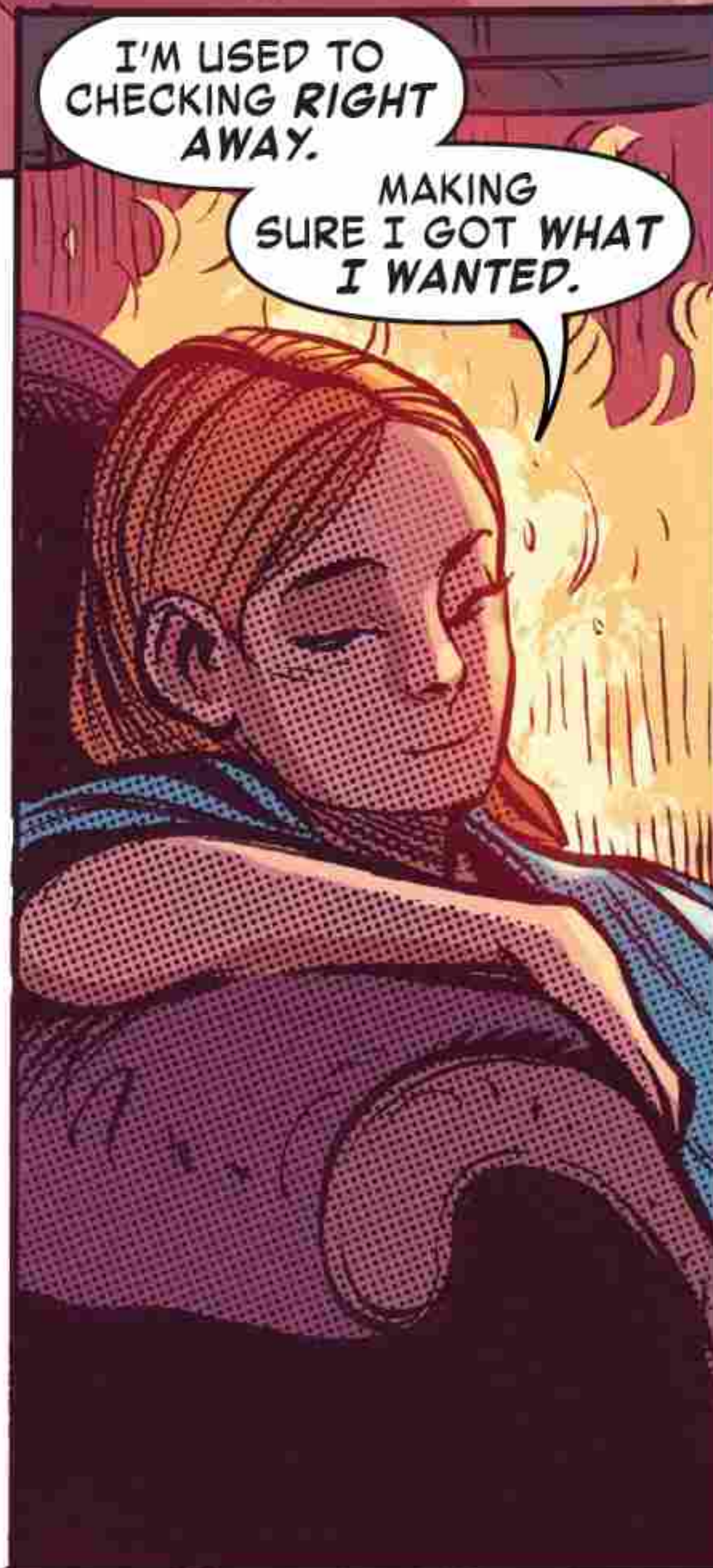
TAKES PATIENCE,
I GUESS. PATIENCE
AND TRUST.

WHAT
DOES?

CAMERA LIKE
THAT. YOU **SNAP**
A PHOTO, AND YOU
DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHAT YOU'LL SEE
IN THE PICTURE.



OH
YES, I
DO.



I'M USED TO
CHECKING RIGHT
AWAY.

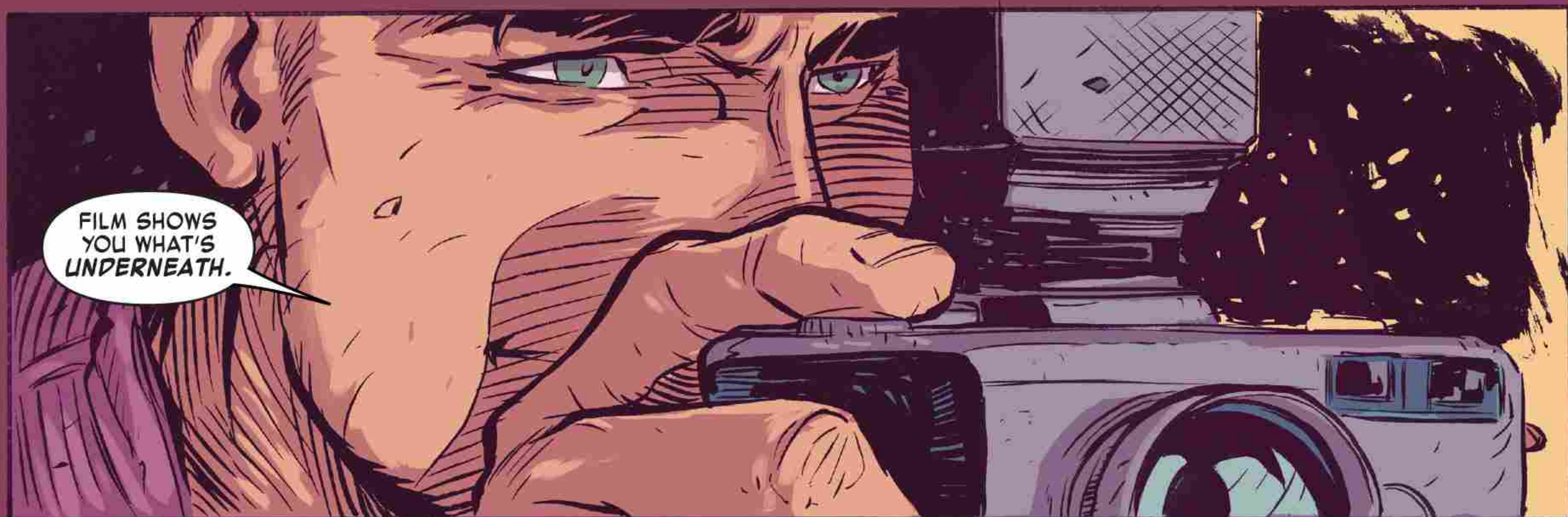
MAKING
SURE I GOT WHAT
I WANTED.



I MAKE SURE I GET WHAT
I WANT TOO. FILM ISN'T
JUST **CHEMICALS** ON
PAPER OR **DATA** ON
A CHIP.



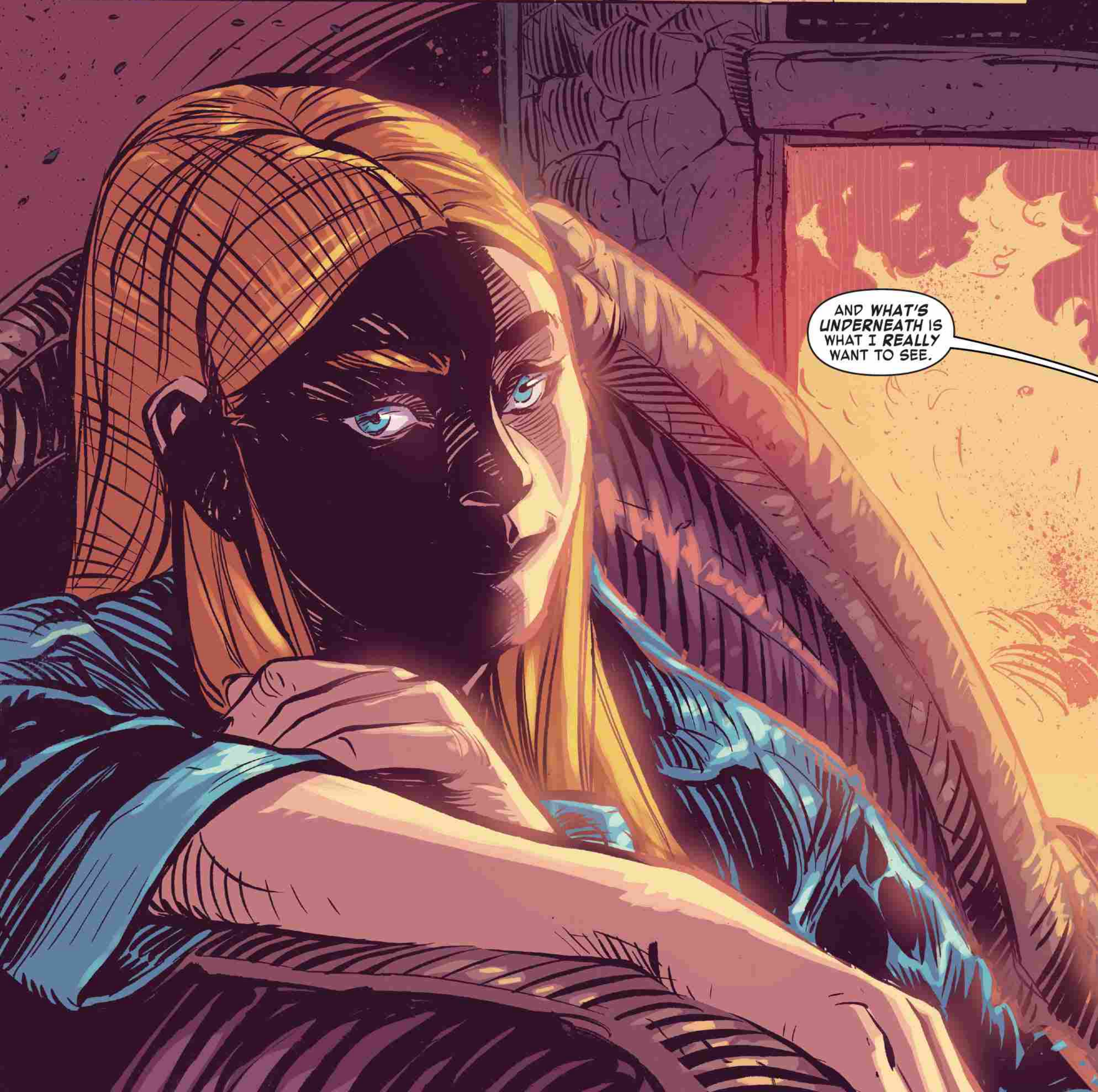
THERE'S
AN **ALCHEMY**
TO IT.
A
MAGIC.



FILM SHOWS
YOU WHAT'S
UNDERNEATH.



SNAP!



AND WHAT'S
UNDERNEATH IS
WHAT I REALLY
WANT TO SEE.



Point Bonita.
Now.

WHAT'S
INSIDE THAT
LIGHTHOUSE
IS MINE!

YOU'RE
INTERFERING
IN MY INVESTIGATION,
BLACKHEART...

...AND
THAT MAKES
YOU A PRIME
SUSPECT.

FEK

WHAT'S INSIDE
THERE IS NOT
FOR YOUR EYES,
SLEEPWALKER--

HOW
ABOUT
MINE?



'CAUSE I'D
LIKE TO TAKE A
GANDER.



I...
I SEE IT...
I SEE IT IN
YOU!

DID YOU
KILL SPALDING
GRANTHAM?

THIS IS NEW.
MEPHISTO'S SON SEEMS
AFRAID OF ME.



I KILLED
NO MAN!
DON'T KID
A KIDDER.

WHAT'S *CHANGED*
SINCE MY RECENT TRIP
TO HELL AND BACK?

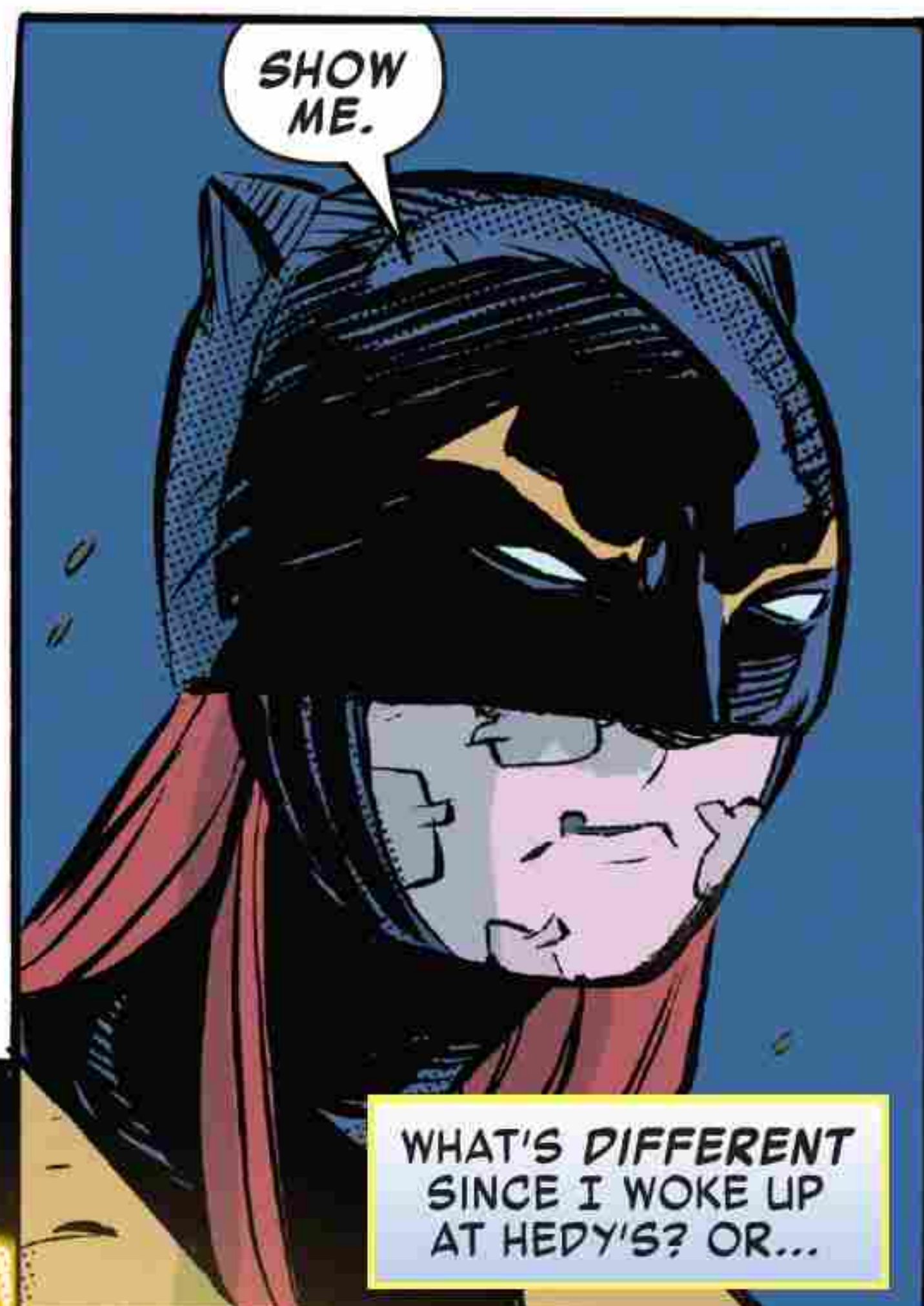


PLEASE! HE
WAS BUILDING
SOMETHING
FOR ME...

WHAT
WOULD SPALDING
GRANTHAM BE BUILDING
FOR A MUG LIKE YOURS?



IT WAS FOR MY
WAR...SO THAT MY
FATHER AND I MIGHT
CONTINUE TO REIGN
SUPREME IN
HELL...



SHOW
ME.

WHAT'S *DIFFERENT*
SINCE I WOKE UP
AT HEDY'S? OR...



VERY
WELL...

WHAT'S GOT
HIM SO SKITTISH?
WHAT'S HE *SEE*
IN ME?

HE...SENSES
MANY REALMS OF
EXISTENCE...

...AM I
SIMPLY WHAT
I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN?



16 Years Old.

HEPY.



DON'T... DO THAT. JUST KNOCK ON THE FRONT DOOR...

CLIMBING STUFF HELPS ME THINK THROUGH THINGS. AND I'VE BEEN THINKING.



I'M GONNA TURN MYSELF IN FOR THE TERM-PAPER THING. CHET DOESN'T DESERVE TO GO DOWN AS A CHEATER.

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T MENTION YOU.



SCHOOL ADMIN STILL THINKS YOU WROTE YOUR PAPER ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?

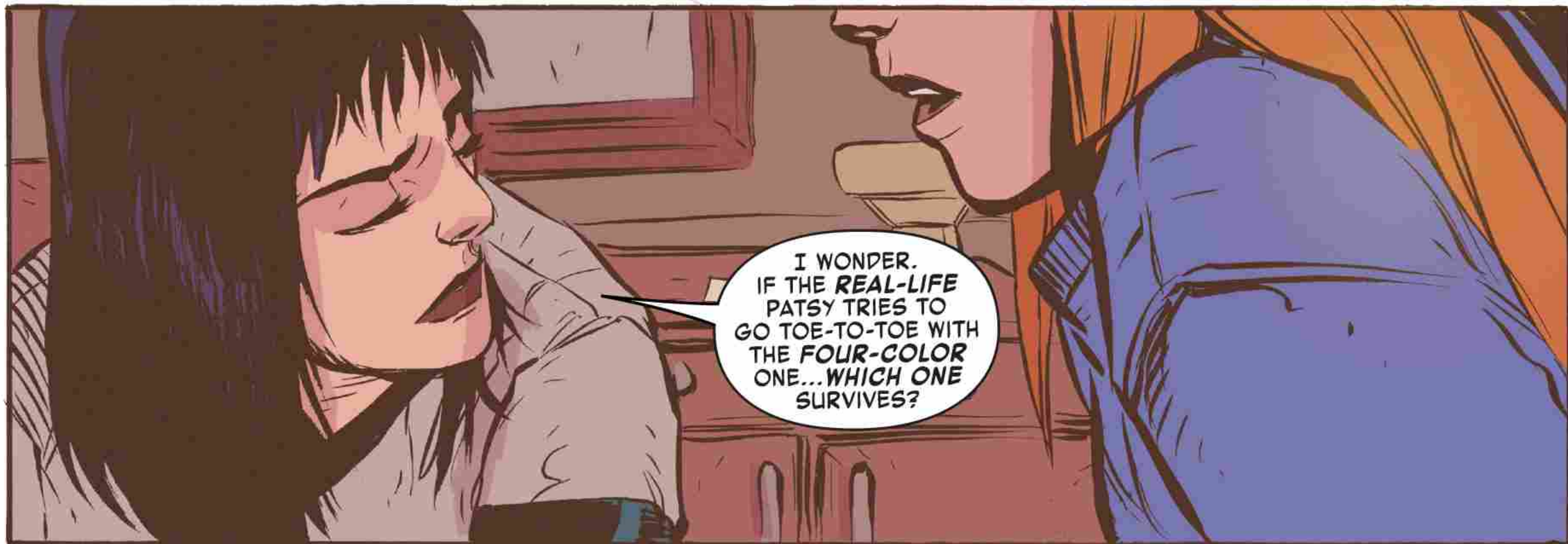
SO FAR. YEAH.



BUT YOU'LL GET KICKED OUT. YOUR MOM WON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT. DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE FOR A GREAT ISSUE OF PATSY WALKER, AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE TEENAGER.

MY LIFE BELONGS TO ME. NOT MY MOTHER.

YOU TRIED TELLING HER THAT?



I WONDER. IF THE REAL-LIFE PATSY TRIES TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE FOUR-COLOR ONE...WHICH ONE SURVIVES?

Now.

ONE OF SPALDING'S CAMERAS...

THE IDLE RICH AND THEIR HOBBIES. ALTHOUGH SPALDING'S MOST FAVORED PASTIME...

...WAS THE OCCULT.

WHAT... WHAT IS IT?

IT IS AN EXILE GATE, ALBEIT AN UNFINISHED ONE. ANYONE SENT THROUGH IT WILL NEVER RETURN... TO THIS WORLD OR MINE.

WHY BUILD THIS? WHO GOES THROUGH...?

WHY WOULD YOU NEED SPALDING TO BUILD THIS FOR YOU?

I CAN CONSTRUCT NOTHING OF STATURE IN YOUR PALTRY CORPOREAL PLANE. I NEED THE HANDS OF ONE WHO IS COMPLETELY LOYAL TO THE DEVIL REALM.

A SHAME THAT THIS POOR DISCIPLE OF MY FATHER'S WAS... EXTINGUISHED... BEFORE HE COULD FINISH THIS TASK.

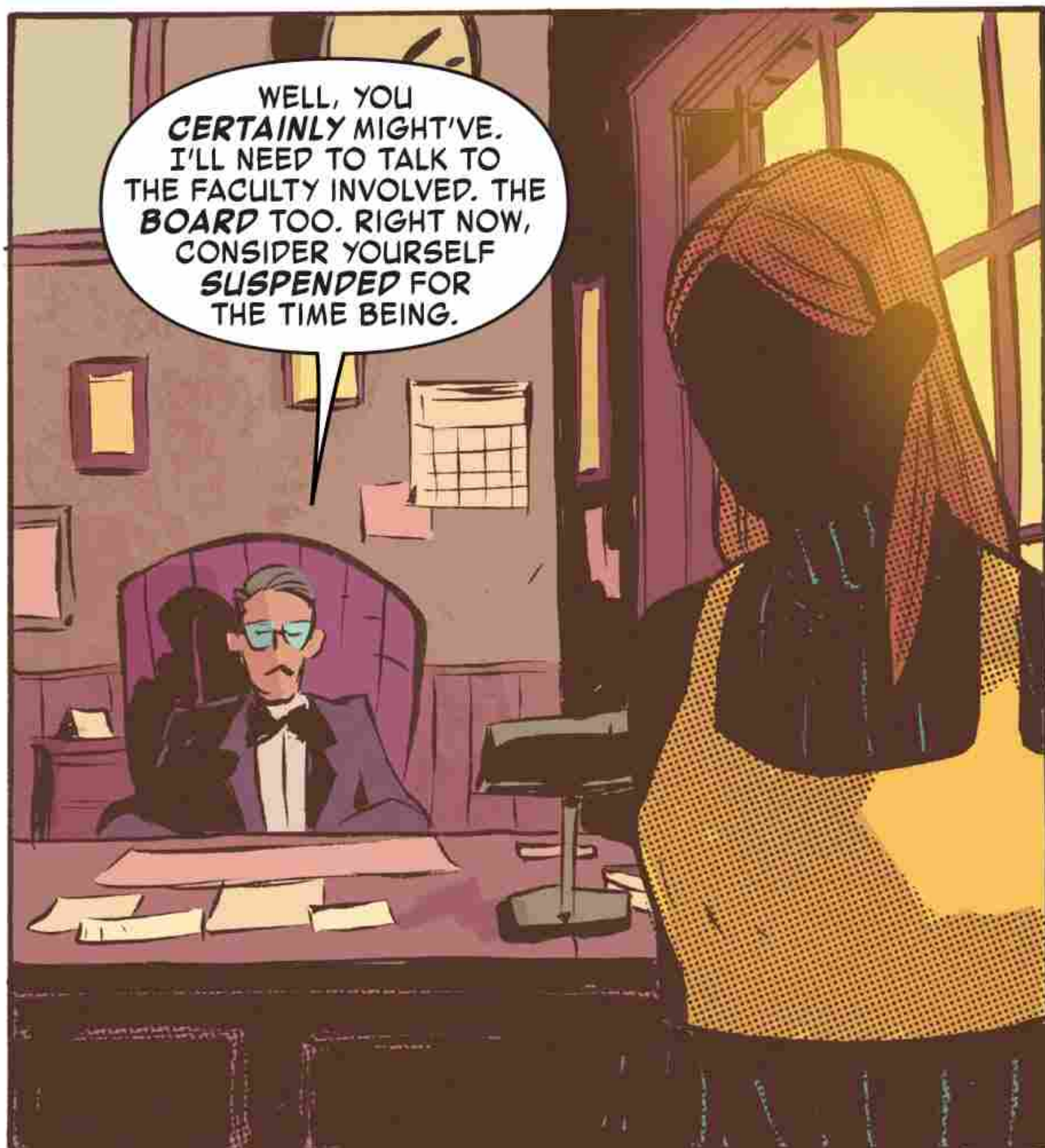
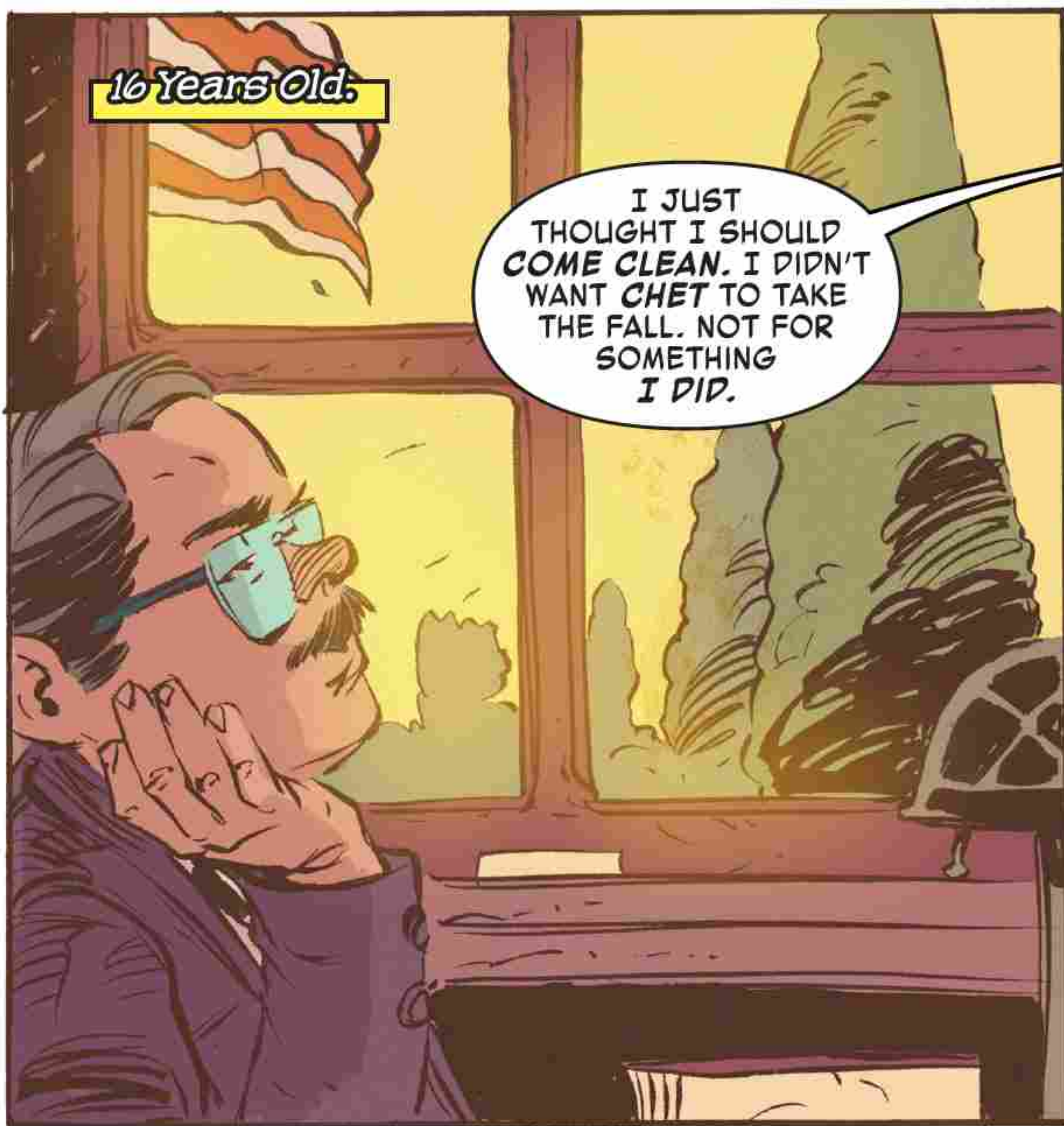
GET OUT!

HELLCAT... CALM YOURSELF...

WHAT DID YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOKED AT ME?

GET OUT OF HERE!

AND WHAT DID I FAIL TO SEE WHEN I LOOKED AT YOU?





HELLO--YES, MRS. WALKER, IT'S **PRINCIPAL MONROE**. YOU TOLD ME TO **CALL** IF SHE CAME BY MY OFFICE.

SHE ADMITTED TO THE **ENTIRE SCHEME**. I WILL SAY, THIS IS **QUITE SEVERE--**

OH, MY PATSY. SUCH A **BRAVE AND FEARLESS FRIEND** THAT ONE IS, ISN'T SHE?

MA'AM?



MISTER MONROE, IT'S CLEAR THAT PATSY IS WILLING TO **SACRIFICE** HER OWN ACADEMIC CAREER IN ORDER TO SAVE THIS **CHET BOY** FROM **SCANDAL**.

PATSY WALKER, WHO YOU AND I BOTH KNOW HAS NEVER DONE A **THING** WRONG AND IS **COMPLETELY INNOCENT**. CORRECT?

I...

I THINK HER **RECORD--**AND MY **WILDLY FAMOUS BOOKS** ABOUT HER--SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES WHEN IT COMES TO HER **CHARACTER**, DON'T YOU? NOT TO MENTION MY SIGNIFICANT... **SIGNIFICANT...DONATIONS** TO THE **HIGH-SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB**, YES?



SOMETHING I'D **HATE** TO SEE JEOPARDIZED BY ALL THIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT **INCREASING** MY CONTRIBUTIONS RECENTLY...

"FUNNY, ISN'T IT?"

Now.

WHAT'S FUNNY? THAT MY MOM'S A **GHOST** FLOATING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE? PROBABLY **EAVESDROPPING** ON US?

NO. I MEANT THAT YOU AND **SLEEPWALKER** CAN BE OUT CONFRONTING THE **SON OF MEPHISTO**, AND I'M JUST SOMEWHERE TAKING A **LIGHT SNOOZE**.

WELL, RICK, TO BE HONEST, I'D RATHER BE WORKING WITH YOU IN HERE THAN **SLEEPWALKER**. THAT GUY HAS TROUBLE JUST...YOU KNOW... **HANGING OUT**.

I THINK... I THINK YOU MIGHT'VE **FREAKED HIM OUT** AT THE **LIGHTHOUSE**. AND **BLACKHEART** **MOPPED THE FLOOR** WITH HIM OUT THERE TOO. HE'S... **WEAKER** FOR SOME REASON...

LOOK AT THIS...

SPALDING'S CAMERA MUST BE SOMEHOW CALIBRATED TO PICK UP QUALITIES OF THE **SUPERNATURAL SPECTRUM**.

THAT **GATE** TRULY IS SOMETHING **SINISTER**.

FILM SHOWS YOU WHAT'S **UNDER-NEATH**...

IS IT WHAT **BLACKHEART** SAYS IT IS?

NO CLUE. BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO **MIGHT BE ABLE** TO TELL US.

I SHOULD'VE BEEN **AWARE** OF WHAT **SPALDING** WAS UP TO. **PROBED HIS MIND**, **PAID ATTENTION**, FOR **PETE'S SAKE**...



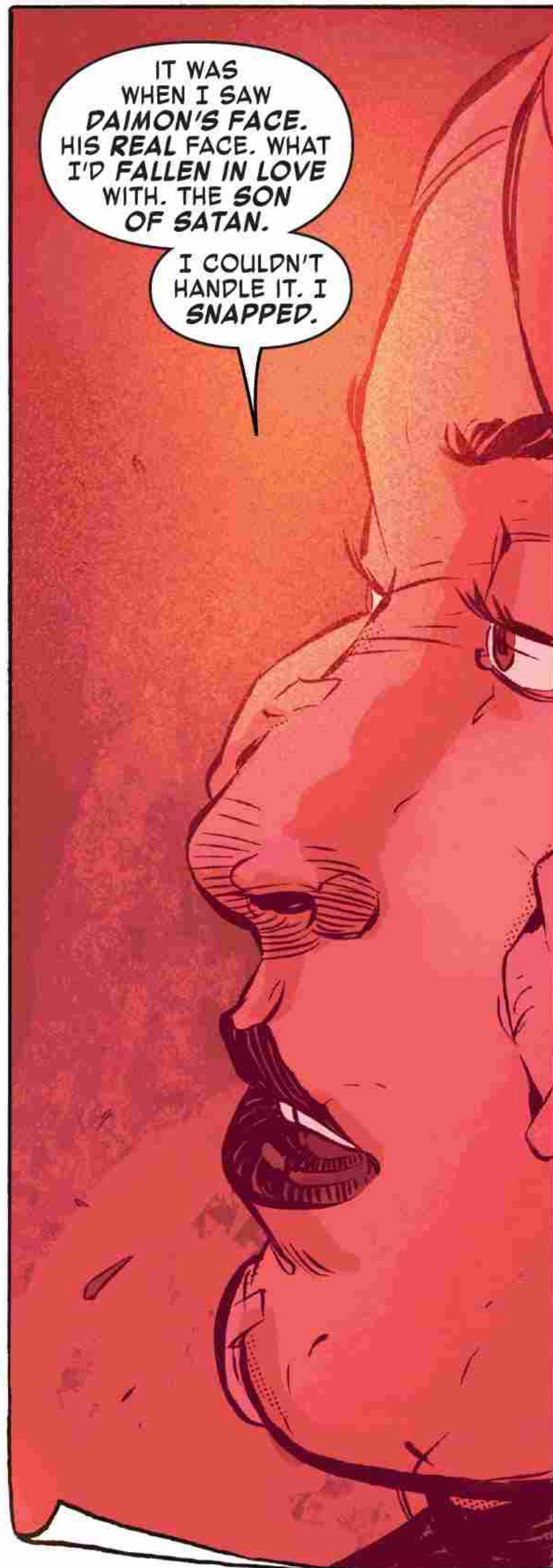
BUT I **COULDN'T**. WITH MY MENTAL POWERS **MASKED**... I'LL ADMIT, IT JUST MADE ME **MORE INTRIGUED** BY HIM. **MORE INTERESTED**.

MORE **HUNGRY** TO LEARN ABOUT HIM IN **OTHER** WAYS.



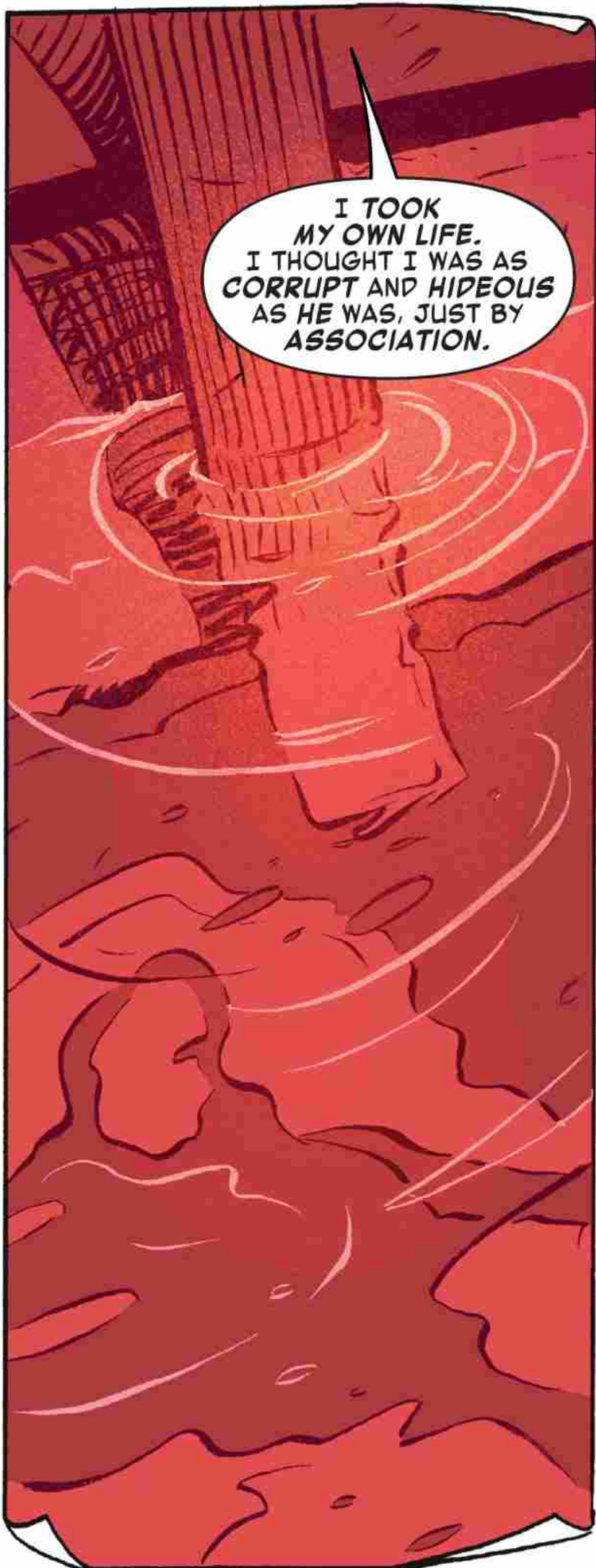
PATSY... IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING... WHAT PROVE YOU... **INSANE?**

LOOK AT RICK. FIRING OFF THE **BIG QUESTIONS** TONIGHT.



IT WAS WHEN I SAW **DAIMON'S FACE**. HIS **REAL FACE**. WHAT I'D **FALLEN IN LOVE** WITH. THE **SON OF SATAN**.

I **COULDN'T** HANDLE IT. I **SNAPPED**.

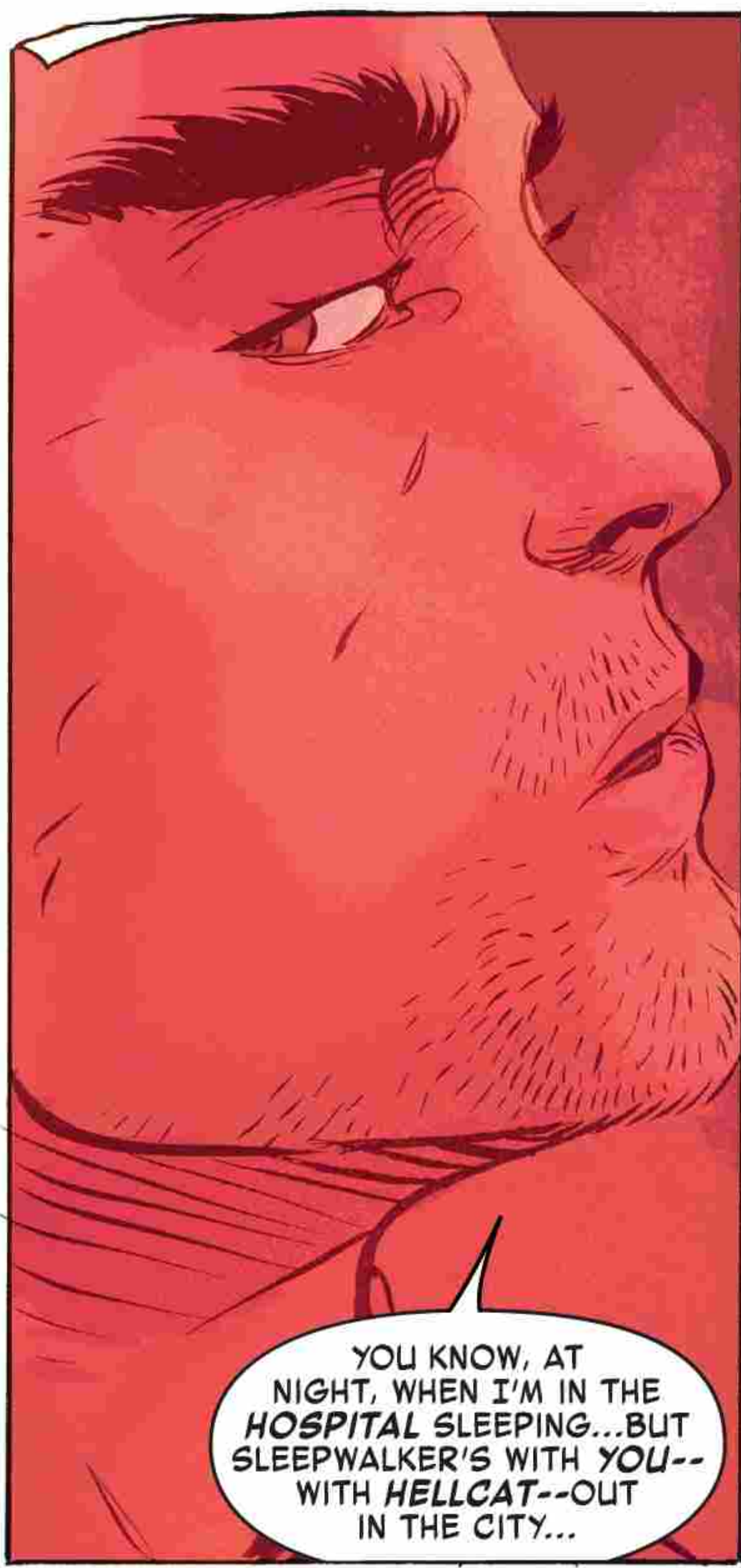


I **TOOK MY OWN LIFE**. I THOUGHT I WAS AS **CORRUPT AND HIDEOUS** AS HE WAS, JUST BY **ASSOCIATION**.



BUT I **CAME BACK**. HERE I AM. **NIFTY SECOND CHANCES** AND ALL THAT. RIGHT? ALTHOUGH NOW I GUESS I'M ON MY **THIRD...**

MAYBE YOU'LL GET A **FULL NINE**.



YOU KNOW, AT NIGHT, WHEN I'M IN THE **HOSPITAL SLEEPING**...BUT **SLEEPWALKER'S** WITH YOU-- WITH **HELLCAT--OUT** IN THE CITY...



...WHEN HE COMES TO BE WITH YOU, I CAN STILL SORT OF...*SEE* YOU. IT'S LIKE A *DREAM*, BUT...MY DREAMS, THEY'RE NOT LIKE *OTHER* PEOPLE'S DREAMS.

IN MY DREAMS, I SEE MORE...



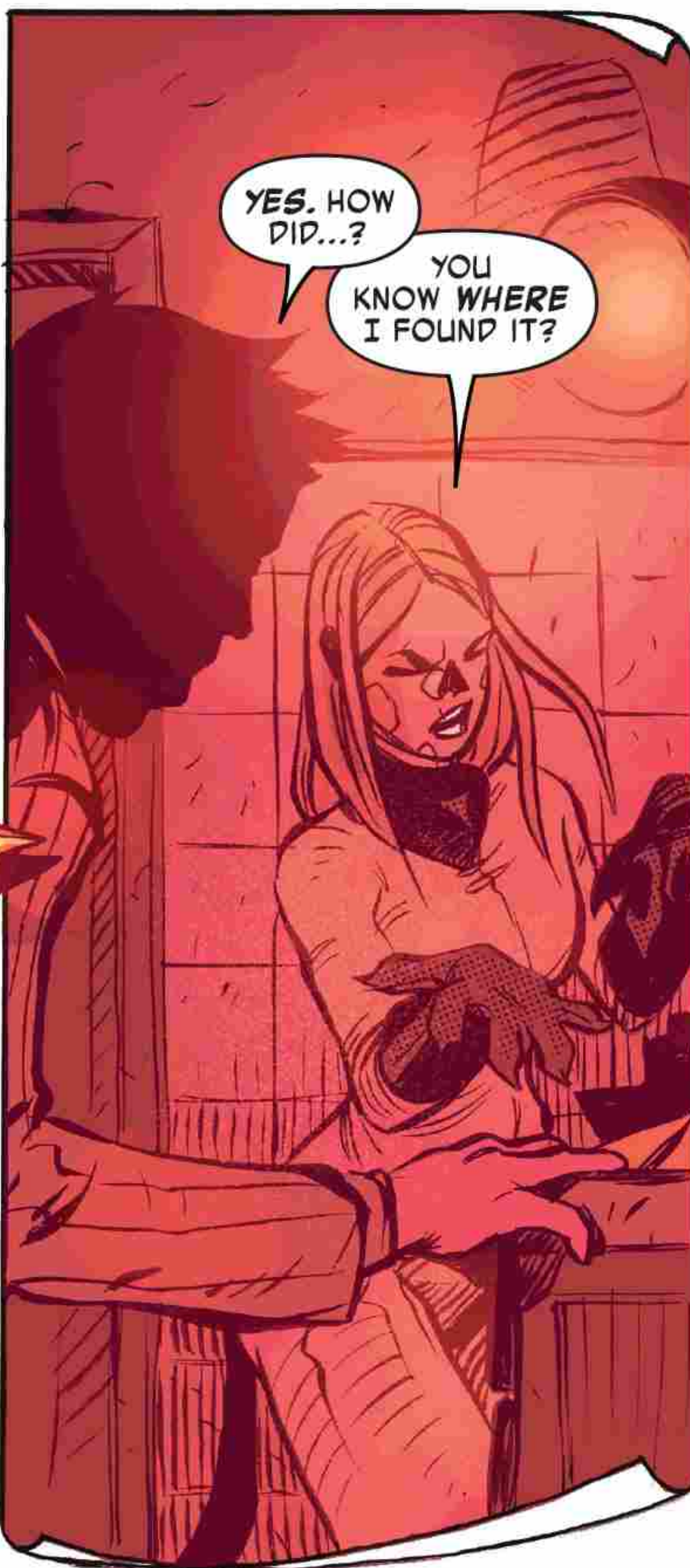
...LIKE...*ECHOES* OF WHAT HE SEES. AND IN YOU, I SEE...SOMETHING I CAN'T EVEN *DESCRIBE*... IT *FADES* EVERY TIME I WAKE UP, BUT THEN IT *LINGERS*...



THIS...*VISION* OF YOU...I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD. IT... I DUNNO THE WORD... IT...*TRANSCENDS*.

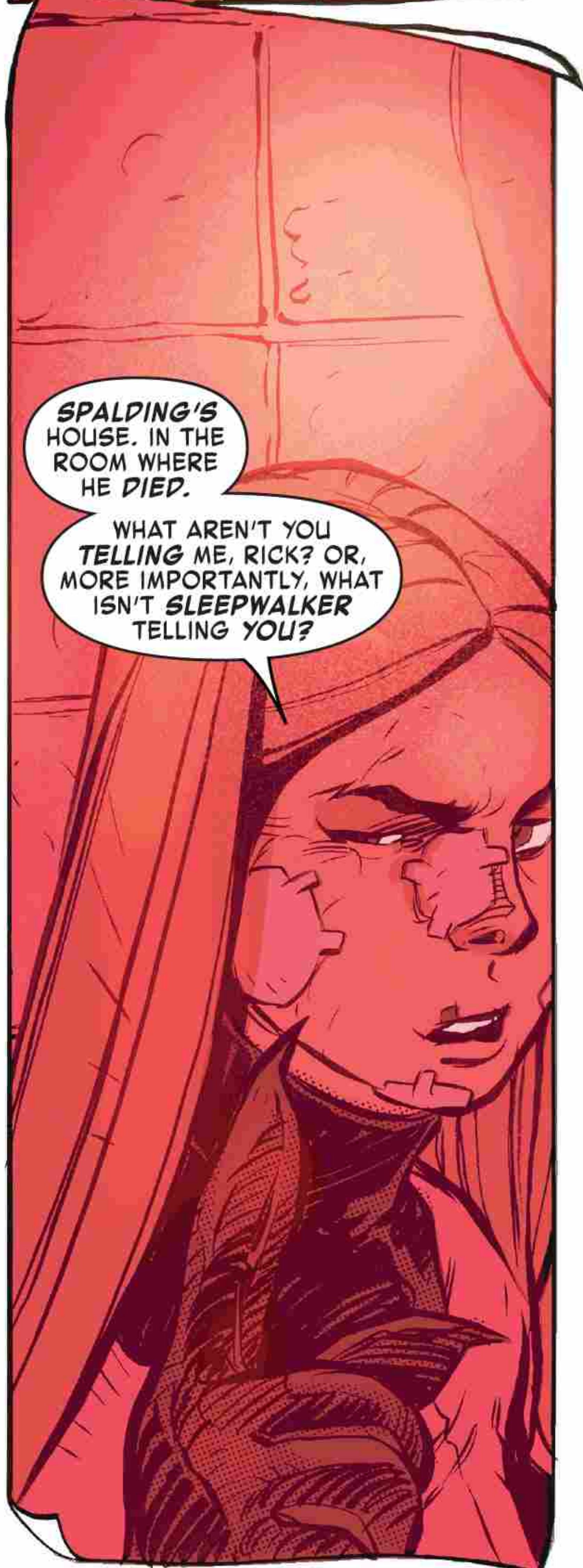


THIS IS YOURS. THIS IS SLEEPWALKER'S *IMAGINATOR*. ISN'T IT?



YES. HOW DID...?

YOU KNOW *WHERE* I FOUND IT?



SPALDING'S HOUSE. IN THE ROOM WHERE HE *DIED*.

WHAT AREN'T YOU *TELLING* ME, RICK? OR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ISN'T *SLEEPWALKER* TELLING YOU?

16 Years Old.

CHEATING CHEETAIN LOSES BIG

Term Paper Scheme Leads
to Expulsion for Cheet
by Buzz Baxter,
Student Body Prez

WELL, WELL,
WELL...



...JUSTICE
LOOKS A LOT
DIFFERENT THAN
I THOUGHT.

I TOLD THEM,
HEDY. I TOLD MONROE
EVERYTHING. I DON'T
GET IT...

IT'S
PRETTY OBVIOUS
TO ME.

FOUR-COLOR
PATSY STRIKES
AGAIN.

"TELL ME WHAT
YOU'RE HIDING
FROM ME."

Now.

WHY WAS
YOUR IMAGINATOR AT
SPALDING'S HOUSE? THAT'S
LIKE THE EQUIVALENT OF
A COP LOSING THEIR
@#% GUN--

IT IS NOT A
MERE WEAPON. IT IS A
CONDUIT TO AN ENTIRE
DIMENSION. IT FOCUSES
AND STRENGTHENS ALL
THAT THE SLEEPWALKERS
CAN MANIFEST,
MANIPULATE--

DID
YOU KILL
HIM?

NO. THE
IMAGINATOR WAS
THERE BECAUSE
I PLANTED IT
THERE.

IT WAS...A RISK.
I AM ADMITTEDLY...
LESSER WITHOUT IT. BUT
WITH IT PLANTED, I COULD
SURVEIL HIM. LISTEN IN.
TRY TO GLIMPSE SOME
TRUTH.

IT IS WHY WE
WATCHED HIM SLEEP,
RICK. EXAMINED HIS DREAMS.
NOT BECAUSE YOU WERE
LOVELORN FOR PATSY
WALKER.

BUT
BECAUSE I WAS
SUSPICIOUS.

YOU
KEPT ALL
THIS FROM
ME?

YOU HAVE
STAYED HERE--IN THIS
HOSPITAL--FOR MONTHS.
YOU ARE NOT WELL. I CARE
FOR YOU, RICK. BUT AS A
PARTNER...CURRENTLY...
YOU ARE...
UNRELIABLE.



SO YOU'VE CUT ME OUT. I'M JUST A HINDRANCE TO YOU AGAIN--

NO. BUT THIS IS THE STATE YOU ARE IN. AND THE NATURE OF THIS CASE.

YOUR FEELINGS FOR WALKER. HER RELATIONSHIP TO GRANTHAM.

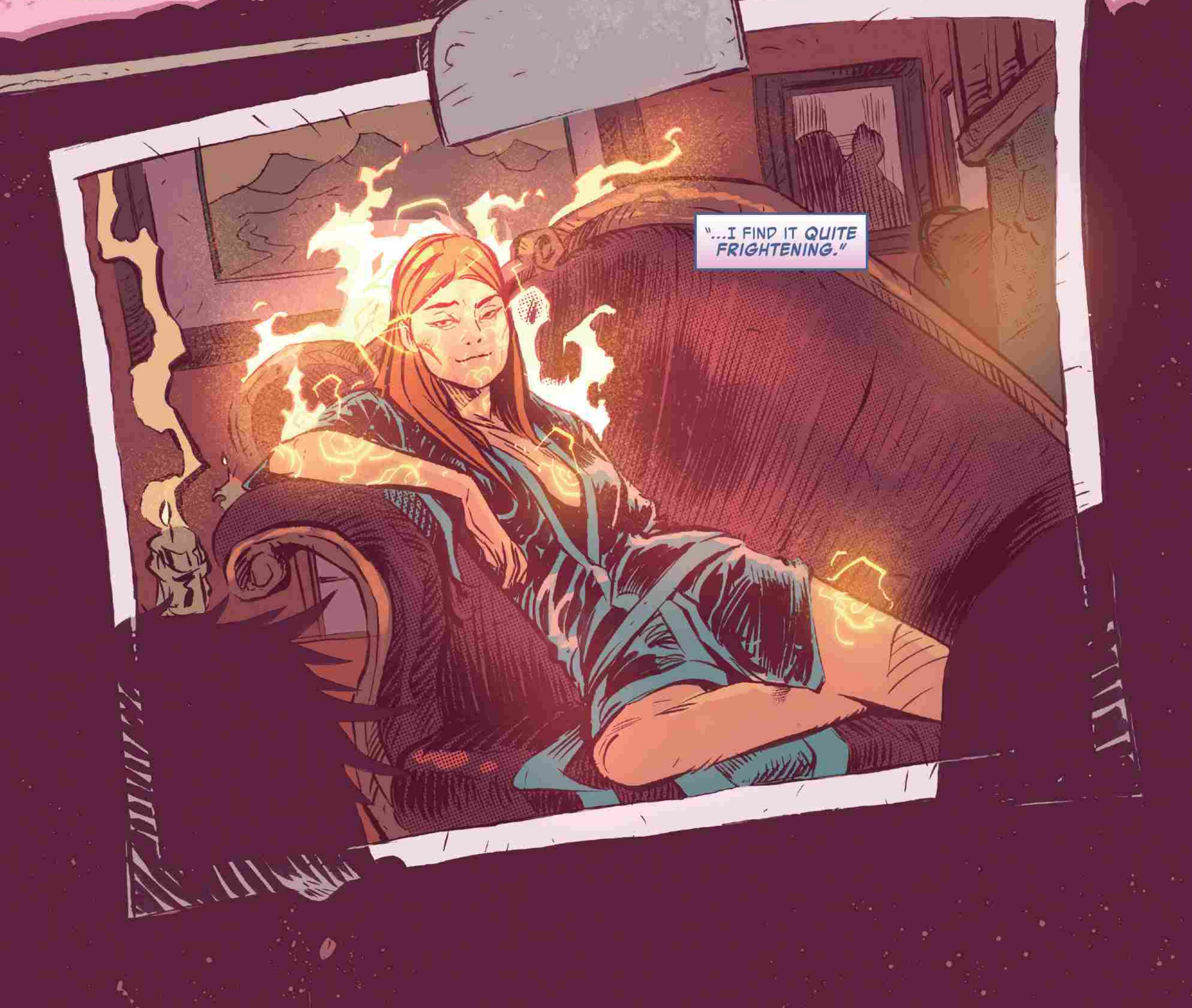
IT SEEMED BEST TO KEEP YOU AWAY.

MY DECISION WAS PERHAPS UNWISE. BUT SPALDING GRANTHAM MAY HAVE COMMITTED *SERIOUS DREAM CRIMES* THROUGH HIS OCCULT PRACTICES. AGAINST PATSY WALKER. YOU WOULD NOT HAVE STAYED OBJECTIVE--

WHAT I *SEE* IN HER THROUGH YOUR EYES...

YES. I SEE IT AS WELL. BUT I DO NOT FIND WHAT I'VE WITNESSED IN HELLCAT ALLURING. NO...

THIS ISN'T SOME HIGH-SCHOOL CRUSH.



"...I FIND IT QUITE FRIGHTENING."

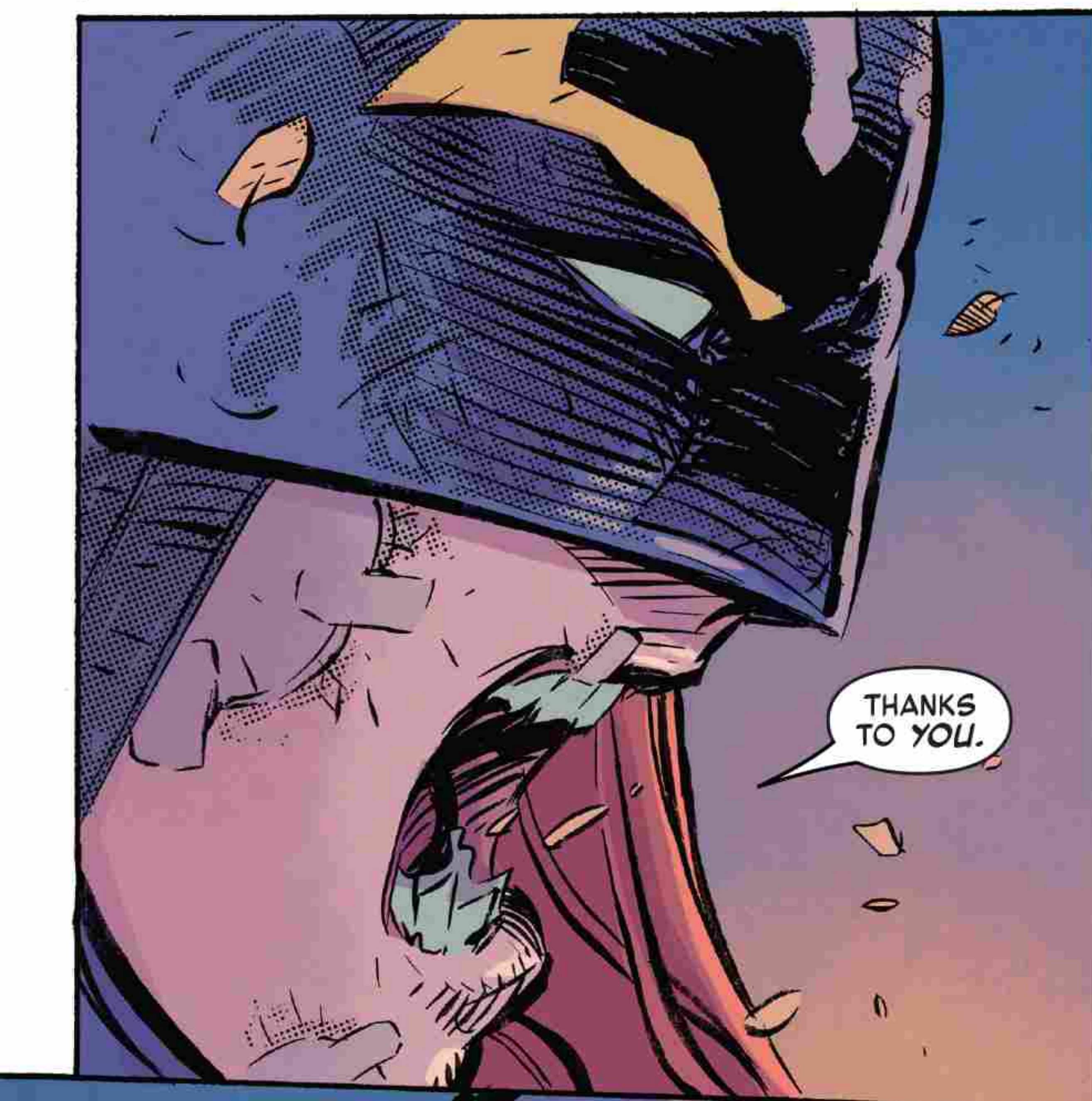


WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME? WHEN I CAME BACK?

NOTHING THAT WASN'T ALREADY THERE. YOU'RE JUST FINALLY REALIZING IT.

YOU SAID I HAD TO **CHOOSE**. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I SIGNED UP FOR SOME **DEAL**. SOME **BARGAIN**.

YOU THINK PEOPLE CAN **WAKE UP IN HELL** AND JUST **LEAVE**? YOU KNOW IT DOESN'T **WORK** THAT WAY. AFTER ALL, YOU'RE **PRETTY FAMILIAR** WITH THE PLACE.



THANKS TO YOU.



I HOLD **NO POWER** THERE. I HAVEN'T FOR **SOME TIME**. **MEPHISTO** AND HIS SON **CONTROL** THE REALM.

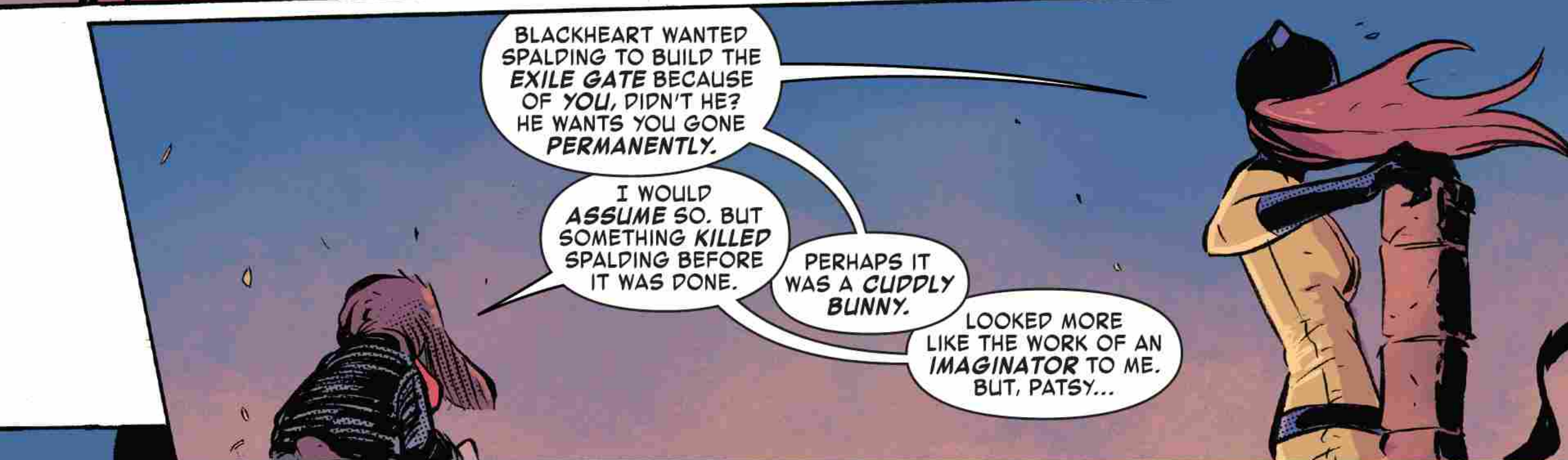
I KNOW. BUT **BLACKHEART'S** **RUNNING SCARED**.

FROM YOU. NOT ME.



I'M SURE YOU'RE **THRILLED** ABOUT THAT. MAYBE YOU STILL SEE ME AS YOUR **ACE IN THE HOLE**. IS THAT WHY YOU'RE **MASKING** MY MIND?

I HAVE **NO POWER** OVER YOU EITHER. I HAVE **NO POWER** AT ALL.



BLACKHEART WANTED **SPALDING** TO BUILD THE **EXILE GATE** BECAUSE OF YOU, DIDN'T HE? HE WANTS YOU GONE **PERMANENTLY**.

I WOULD **ASSUME** SO. BUT SOMETHING **KILLED** **SPALDING** BEFORE IT WAS DONE.

PERHAPS IT WAS A **CUDPLY BUNNY**.

LOOKED MORE LIKE THE WORK OF AN **IMAGINATOR** TO ME. BUT, **PATSY...**



...YOU'RE THE **REAL THREAT** HERE. YOU **ALWAYS** HAVE BEEN. HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT **DREW US TOGETHER** YEARS AGO? WHAT **TIES** US TOGETHER?

"I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED TO **COME WITH ME**."

12 Years Old.

COME... WITH YOU?

YES, KIDDO. YOU SEE... I'VE TURNED TO GOD NOW.

I'VE GIVEN MY LIFE TO HIM. I'M A MINISTER OF HIS WORD. I'M LIVING A LIFE OF PEACE AND FELLOWSHIP.

COME...
WITH YOU?

YES, KIDDO.
YOU SEE...I'VE
TURNED TO
GOD NOW.

I'VE
GIVEN MY LIFE TO
HIM. I'M A *MINISTER*
OF HIS WORD. I'M LIVING
A LIFE OF *PEACE* AND
FELLOWSHIP.

I'M
HAPPY
NOW.

I THOUGHT
YOU COULD JOIN ME.
BE BORN AGAIN INTO HIS
LIGHT. MAYBE WE CAN GET
THAT NASTY OL' DEVIL OFF
YOUR SHOULDER ONCE
AND FOR ALL. WHAT
DO YA SAY?

Recently.

THIS COULD
BE SOMETHING
POWERFUL.

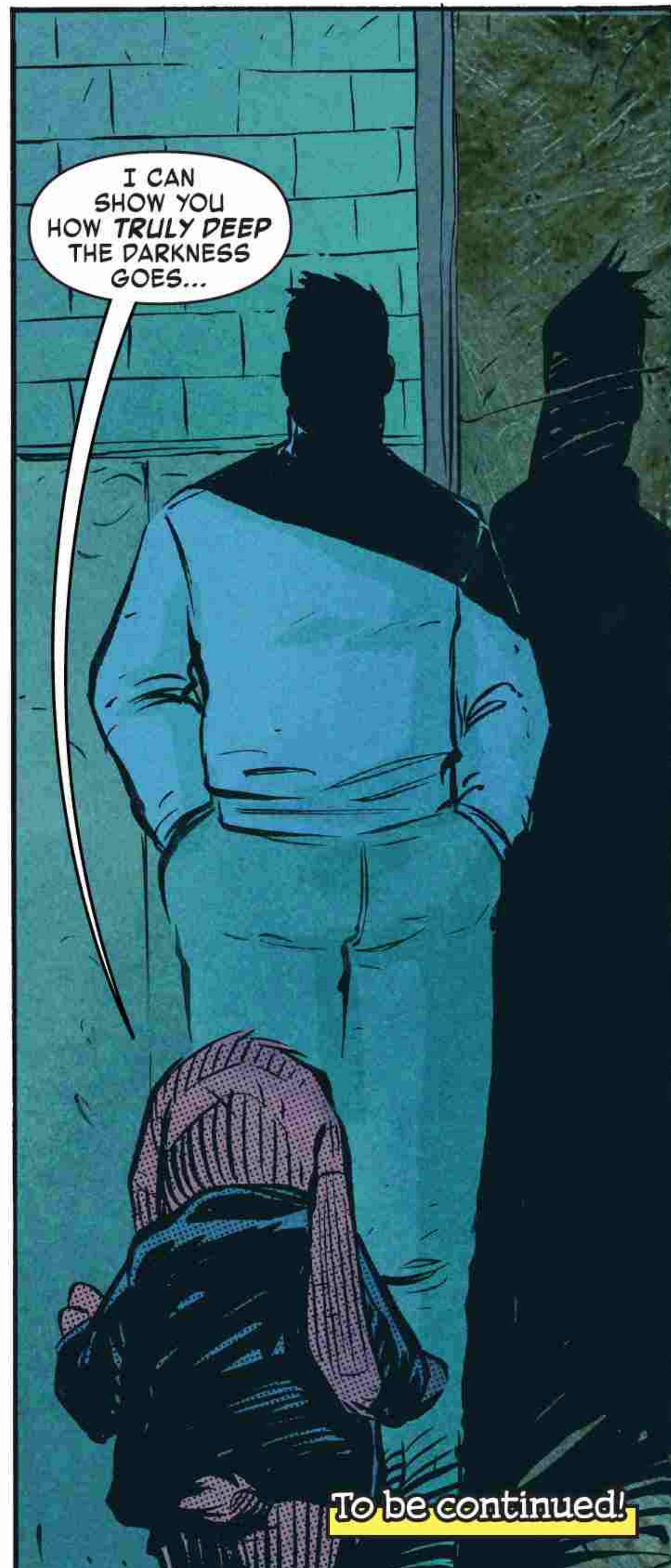
I WAS
WONDERING
WHEN YOU'D
STOP BY.

AND YES.
IT WILL BE. I'VE
FOLLOWED BLACKHEART'S
INSTRUCTIONS TO
THE LETTER.

SOMEONE
WHO STEPS THROUGH
THIS...THEY'RE NEVER
COMING BACK.

AND WHAT
DO YOU GET IN
RETURN?

I GET TO *SEE*.
EVEN *CLEARER*, INTO
THE DARKNESS.



To be continued!

HELLCAT

Thanks for joining us for our third issue of HELLCAT! Let's take a look at your thoughts on our first couple of issues...

Hi there!

I've been a big fan of Patsy Walker ever since all those minis in 2009. And this new series is exactly what I was hoping to see after that annual special! Patsy is someone who wants a normal life, but when she can't handle her own problems, she devotes herself to solving everyone else's problems. She's a great character with a lot of history, and I can already tell this is going to be one of my favorite Patsy stories!

Please keep it coming--seeing Patsy and friends deal with ex-husbands and the forces of Hell is always a highlight of my pull list.

Thank you!
Jakob K.

We're glad we could fulfill your desire for more Patsy! Your analysis of what makes her character so interesting is spot-on!

Dear HELLCAT team,

This is my first time ever writing one of these letters, but after picking up HELLCAT #1 by Christopher Cantwell, Alex Lins, KJ Díaz and the entire HELLCAT team, I knew I had to.

Patsy has come to mean a lot to me in a short amount of time. Her dealing with the trauma of

her past while trying to forge a better future, all while questioning whether she deserves it, has been something that's meant a lot to me as a person who's gone through my own hardships in life. I also can't forget to mention the wonderful relationship between her and Tony. I was heartbroken to see them not get married, but I love the fact that they're still in each other's lives and still do love each other! I hope we'll get to see their relationship explored more.

I already went out and bought the additional variants for issue #1 and plan to continue buying them for the rest of this miniseries. I hope it does well, and I hope Christopher and the team can continue to write more Patsy in the future! Thank you so much for introducing me to one of my new favorite characters, whom I can both connect to and desperately try to see more of wherever I can. I just hope I can find back issues of those original Patsy Walker comics now...

Hope this finds its way to you, and keep up the amazing work on this series! Much love to everyone involved in making such a great book!

Carter Gil de Rubio

I'm glad Patsy's experiences are resonating with you, Carter--thank you for supporting the series and the variant cover artists. Patsy has her hands pretty full with Daimon at the moment, but we shall wait

and see if Tony will also get added to the mix...

Hello!

I just finished reading HELLCAT #1 and wanted to write in and tell you guys how intriguing it was! As a complete newbie on all things Hellcat, this did a fantastic job roping me in. I had no clue she was so involved in the supernatural side of things--time to do some much-needed research. Also wanted to sing my praises for the artwork! It sucked me into the atmosphere immediately. Thanks for such a great first issue--can't wait for #2!

Sincerely,
Nahki

We love it when a new comic inspires readers to seek out the older stories that helped inspire it, so we hope you have fun reading up on Patsy's long history with the supernatural.

That's all the space we have left for now, so we will see you next issue!
--Martin

If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide, or are worried about a friend or loved one, please reach out to a counselor or someone you trust or dial 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and be sure to mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them featured in future issues!

NEXT #4



Hellcat has reached a breaking point as she is haunted by secrets from her past and hounded by the law, Sleepwalker AND her ex Daimon Hellstrom in the present. With the dark forces conspiring against her and the truth of Spalding Grantham's murder finally about to be exposed, Patsy will undergo a dramatic transformation. Prepare yourselves for the return of ... **DEMONIC HELLCAT!**

